PART

3

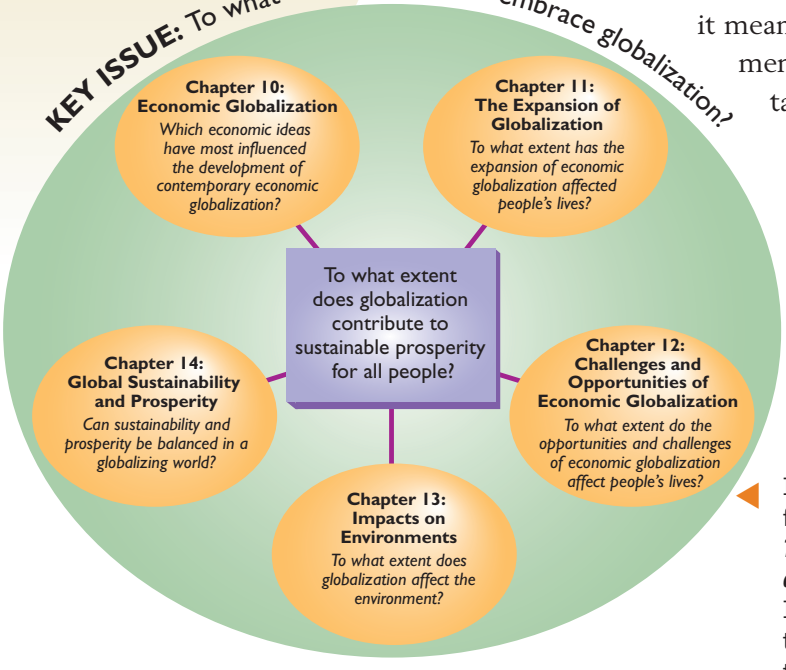
Economic and Environmental Impacts of Globalization

The Key Issue for this course asks: ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?*** In Part 2, you continued your exploration of this issue by investigating the legacies of historical globalization. You considered how you and other Canadians might respond. Now, you can continue exploring the Key Issue by investigating the Main Issue for Part 3: ***To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?*** Let's begin by thinking about the term *prosperity*.

In a general sense, "prosperity" can mean "good fortune," but good fortune means different things to different people. For a teenager in Pakistan, it might mean your family has grown enough rice to pay your school fees for the year. For you, it might mean saving enough money from your part-time job to put yourself through college. Prosperity doesn't always have to do with money, however. For an amateur nature photographer, prosperity might mean being granted access to a flourishing nature preserve. For a Franco-Albertan, it might mean living out his or her Francophone identity. For most people, prosperity means living a satisfying life, whatever that might be for them.

If something is considered "sustainable," we know that it can be maintained into the future. Let's put these two ideas together to consider the meaning of "sustainable prosperity." Generally, it means living a satisfying life, as an individual and as a member of a community, in a way that can be maintained into the future.

People also have different understandings of sustainable prosperity. The chief executive officer of a diamond mine would likely see sustainable prosperity in a different way than a local environmentalist. Franco-Albertans might view sustainable prosperity as living in a community in which their children are able to grow, learn, and live in a thriving Francophone environment.

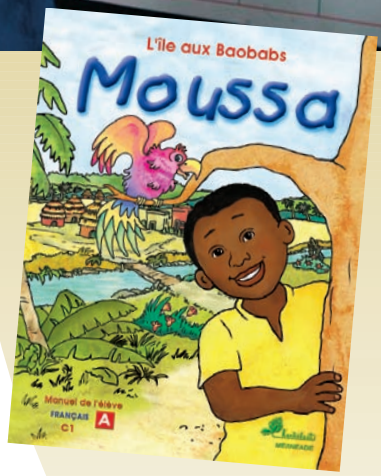

KEY ISSUE: To what extent should we embrace globalization?
Chapter 10: Economic Globalization
Which economic ideas have most influenced the development of contemporary economic globalization?
Chapter 11: The Expansion of Globalization
To what extent has the expansion of economic globalization affected people's lives?
To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?
Chapter 14: Global Sustainability and Prosperity
Can sustainability and prosperity be balanced in a globalizing world?
Chapter 12: Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Globalization
To what extent do the opportunities and challenges of economic globalization affect people's lives?
Chapter 13: Impacts on Environments
To what extent does globalization affect the environment?

In every chapter, you will explore an issue that will help you form an opinion about the Main Issue for Part 3 of this text: ***To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?*** Look at the five Chapter Issues. Predict how environmental issues will be connected to economic ideas. After working through Part 3, come back to your prediction, and see how you would modify it.

Is globalization helping us achieve sustainable prosperity? Part 3 asks you to think about this issue. It also asks whether or not the benefits of globalization are available to all people. Can our planet continue to sustain us all? How do the choices we make about globalization affect the chances of *all* people to achieve sustainable development as they see it?

The Photographs

The photographs on this page show two forms of economic globalization. The top picture shows a student in Sénégal who is using educational materials produced by a small company based in Rimouski, Québec. Éditions L'artichaut, a Francophone publisher, was founded by Ginette Tremblay, a former teacher. The secret to her global success is adaptation. The company adapts its Canadian grammar guides to suit the particular cultures of students in other Francophone countries. What adaptations can you identify on the cover of the guide? How might this form of economic globalization influence sustainable prosperity? Consider this question from various people's perspective.



The photo below shows economic globalization on a much larger scale: the truck-and-shovel method used in open-pit mining of the oil sands in northern Alberta. The oil sands project allows Alberta to export vast amounts of oil. How might this form of economic globalization influence sustainable prosperity? Read the bubbles surrounding the photograph and consider the perspectives of the various peoples affected by the Alberta oil sands. As you explore Part 3, you will consider many people's perspectives about sustainable prosperity.

The Dene people see both economic development and damage to the land.
Residents of the United States have access to more oil at the same price Canadians pay.
The provincial government can operate debt-free partly because of oil revenues.
Environmentalists watch as the vast open-pit mines chew up hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of boreal forest.
Residents of Alberta pay lower taxes while their economy flourishes.
Your grandchildren will have to deal with the consequences of global warming.
Oil workers have jobs.